

Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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OMB-01 DHA-02 IO-11 /075 W

----- 123559

R 160535Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2205

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEBSSY SINGAPORE

AMCONSUL MEDAN

AMCONSUL SURABAYA

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JAKARTA 0651

EO 11659: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR ID

SUBJECT: B. M. DIAH ATTACKS GOI FOREIGN POLICY

REF: JAKARTA 0611 (DTG 150911Z JAN 76,

JAKARTA 0552 (DTG 140911Z JAN 76)

BEGIN SUMMARY: FEUD BETWEEN MERDEKA EDITOR B.M. DIAH AND FONMIN ADAM MALIK CONTINUED IN HIGH GEAR JAN. 16 WITH MERDEKA FRONT-PAGE EDITORIAL COMPARING MALIK TO JOSEPH GOEBBELS AND CHARGING HIM WITH TRYING TO SUPPRESS PUBLIC OPINION THROUGH FEAR TACTICS. INFORMATION MINISTER MASHURI COMMENTED THAT PRESS IS FREE TO STATE OPINIONS BUT IN BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE WAY. END SUMMARY.

1. B.M. DIAH AND MERDEKA CONTINUED THEIR ATTACK ON FONMIN ADAM MALIK AND HIS POLICIES IN BLISTERING FRONT-
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PAGE EDITORIAL JAN. 16. EDITORIAL SAID MALIK'S

CRITICISMS OF MERDEKA WERE UNJUSTIFIED SINCE PRESS IS BEING ENCOURAGED BY GOI TO MORE OPEN. IT SAID MALIK IS NO LONGER LISTENED TO BY ANYONE BUT ONLY TOLERATED, IN VIEW OF HIS MANY ERRONEOUS ASSURANCES ABOUT THE STRENGTH OF THE FORMER CAMBODIAN AND SOUTH VIETNAMESE GOVERNMENTS. MALIK TRIED TO PASS OFF FAILURES AS SUCCESSES JUST LIKE GOEBBELS DID FOR THE NAZIS, IT SAID, AND HE WANTS TO MAKE THE PEOPLE AFRAID TO SPEAK OUT. IF MALIK IS SO ANTI-COMMUNIST, IT ASKED, WHY THEN DOES HE ACT LIKE THE SOVIET OFFICIAL DESCRIBED IN GULAG ARCHIPELAGO WHO SENTENCED EDITOR TO JAIL BECAUSE HE TRIED TO INFLUENCE THE THINKING OF THE PEOPLE. MERDEKA SAID MALIK WANTED TO EMPLOY TROTSKYITE TACTICS OF TERROR AND ASKED HOW MERDEKA COULD BE ACCUSED OF TREASON WHEN ADMIRAL SUDOMO AND INFORMATION MINISTER MASURI ENCOURAGE THE PRESS TO SPEAK OUT. EDITORIAL CLOSED BY ACCUSING MALIK OF TRYING TO KILL DEMOCRACY IN INDONESIA AND INSTITUTIONALIZE FEAR, CALLING HIS ATTITUDE FASCISM.

2. INFORMATION MINISTER MASHURI, ASKED TO COMMENT ON PREVIOUS STATEMENTS OF DIAH AND MALIK, SAID INDONESIAN PRESS IS FREE TO STATE ITS OPINIONS BUT THIS FREEDOM MUST BE BALANCED AND RESPONSIBLE. ASKED IF INDONESIA'S TIMOR POLICY WAS A FAILURE, MASHURI SAID IT IS MORE PERTINENT TO NOTE THAT THERE ARE CONFLICTING INTERESTS IN TIMOR AND INDONESIA'S POLICY IS DETERMINED BY INDONESIA'S INTERESTS, ASKED OF FRETILIN IS IN FACT COMMUNIST, HE STATED THAT THEY ARE ANTI-COLONIST AND LEFTIST.

3. GOI UN REP SANI COMMENTED TO REPORTERS THAT IT WAS NOT TRUE INDONESIA HAS BEEN ISOLATED IN UN AS MEMBERS OF WORLD BODY STILL APPRECIATED INDONESIA'S ROLE IN DECOLONIZATION, NON-ALIGNMENT, AND OTHER SUCH MATTERS.

4. COMMENT: MOST PAPERS REPORTED REMARKS OF MASHURI AND SANI BUT NONE HAVE YET COMMENTED ON DIAH-MALIK FEUD. LATEST MERDEKA EDITORIAL IS PROBABLY HARSHTEST PERSONAL ATTACK IN SENIOR GOI OFFICIAL IN PRESS SINCE TIGHTENING OF PRESS FREEDOMS FOLLOWING JAN. 1974 RIOTS. NO SENIOR MILITARY OFFICIALS HAVE YET COMMENTED ON FEUD, AND THEY

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MAY BE SOLW TO COME TO MALIK'S DEFENSE IN VIEW OF THEIR GENERAL OPPOSITION TO HIS USUAL SOMEWHAT LEFTIST POSITIONS.

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